

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1797

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, CY, GR, TU

SUBJECT: ASTA CONFERENCE DISPUTE OVER CYPRUS

1. DISPUTE WHICH LED TO PREMATURE DEPARTURE OF GREEK AND GREEK CYPRIOT DELEGATES AROSE AT MARCH 27-31, 1977 IZMIR TRAVEL AGENTS CONFERENCE. THE MEETING, FIFTH ANNUAL TRAVEL CONFERENCE AND SEMINARS OF INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRAVEL AGENTS, WAS HELD "UNDER THE AUSPICES" OF GOT PRESIDENT KORUTURK AND ATTENDED BY OVER 300 DELEGATES (65 U.S.). PARTIAL LIST OF SPEAKERS AT OPENING CEREMONY INCLUDED AMBASSDOR MACOMBER (CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY ALSO INVITED AS SPEAKER, BUT UNABLE

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ATTEND AND SENT WRITTEN MESSAGE), MINISTER OF TOURISM AND INFORMATION TOKOGLU LUTFI, IZMIR MAYOR IHSAN ALYANAK AND ASTA OFFICERS; PRES. KORUTURK SENT MESSAGE.

2. ALTHOUGH NO POLITICAL DISCUSSION AROSE AT OPENING CEREMONY AND SUBSEQUENT CONFERENCE SESSIONS, GREEK DELEGATES APPROACHED CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN (IZMIR TRAVEL AGENCY OWNER DR. ERGUN GOKSAN) MARCH 28 TO OBTAIN REMOVAL OF SIGN IDENTIFYING TURKISH CYPRIOT EXHIBIT AT CONFERENCE SITE AS THAT OF "TURKISH FEDERATED STATE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CYPRUS". THEY ALSO REPORTEDLY ASKED THAT MAP BASED ON CYPRUS PRESENT DE FACTO, COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES BE REMOVED FROM THE EXHIBIT. (GREEK CONSUL AT IZMIR, NICOLAS KALANTZIANOS, ALSO NOTED TO US THAT EXHIBIT INCLUDED "PROVOCATIVE" PHOTOS OF 1974 TURKISH MILITARY OPERATIONS IN CYPRUS.) MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH CONFERENCE LIST OF DELEGATES ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY, THE TWO DELEGATES COMING FROM TURKISH CONTROLLED AREA IN CYPRUS WERE IDENTIFIED IN TURKISH AS

FROM THE "TOURISM MINISTRY OF TURKISH FEDERATED STATE OF CYPRUS";
THE SIX DELEGATES FROM NICOSIA, LARNAKA AND LIMASSOL--ALL COMMERCIAL
TRAVEL AGENTS--WERE IDENTIFIED IN ENGLISH AS FROM "CYPRUS".
ACCORDING TO GOKSAN, THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS REFUSED TO COMPLY

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AND WHEN GOKSAN INVITED ASSISTANCE FROM GOT TOURISM AND
INFO MINISTER, LATTER "WAS OF NO HELP".

3. THE EVENING OF CONSULATIONS MARCH 28 HAVING PRODUCED NO
AGREEMENT, THE FOUR GREEK DELEGATES DEPARTED IZMIR THE FOLLOWING
MORNING. ON MARCH 30 THE GREEK CYPRIOT DELEGATES ALSO DEPARTED.

4. PRESS NOTICE OF THIS DISPUTE WAS INITIALLY RESTRICTED TO
THE MAR 31 ISSUE OF HURRIYET, WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE GREEK/
GREEK CYPRIOT ATTITUDE AS OFFENSIVE IN VIEW OF THE "EXISTENCE
OF A TURKISH FEDERATED STATE OF CYPRUS AND A BORDER DRAWN AFTER
THE PEACE OPERATION"; THE "GREEKS CREATED A SCANDAL" INJURIOUS
TO PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN TURKISH AND GREEK TRAVEL
AGENCIES. SUBSEQUENT TO CONFERENCE ADJOURNMENT LOCAL IZMIR
PRESS CARRIED BRIEF, ESSENTIALLY FACTUAL REFERENCES TO GREEK/
GREEK CYPRIOT WALK-OUTS.

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